

A REVISION OF THE GENUS *CALAMOCICHLA* SHARPE.

By OSCAR NEUMANN.

THE species placed in the genus *Calamocichla* are most nearly related to some of the genus *Acrocephalus*, such as *A. baeticatus*, *streperus*, *palustris*, and *stentoreus*. They resemble them in structure, in habits, and mostly also in coloration, the well-developed first primary being the only generic character to distinguish the two genera. If there was not a true *Acrocephalus*, viz. *A. baeticatus*, breeding in South and East Africa, one would be justified to consider the species of *Calamocichla* the representatives of *Acrocephalus* in Africa. One of the species of the group, *Calamocichla gracilirostris* Hartl., has hitherto been kept separate from the other members on account of its somewhat narrower and shorter first primary, and was dealt with as *Luscinola gracilirostris* in vol. v. of the *Catalogue of Birds*, while *leptorhyncha*, *newtoni*, and *brevipennis* are to be found in different places in vol. vii. In a work even of such standing as Reichenow's *Vögel Afrikas*, *gracilirostris* and the other species are still dealt with under different genera. Sharpe, in *Hand-list of Birds*, vol. iv. p. 206, is the first to give *gracilirostris* its right place.

Another very interesting fact is the striking external resemblance of some of the species of *Calamocichla* to one species of the *Pycnonotidae*, viz. *Phyllostrephus strepitans* of Reichenow. This resemblance was the cause of a rather amusing confusion. Firstly, one species of *Calamocichla*, viz. *parva*, was originally described by Fischer and Reichenow as a *Phyllostrephus*. Ten years later Reichenow corrected this error in his *Vögel von Deutsch Ost Afrika*, and again, ten years later (1904), the same author redescribed his *Phyllostrephus strepitans*, which is indeed a true *Phyllostrephus*, as *Calamocichla schillingsi*. Shelley had already redescribed the *Phyllostrephus strepitans* as *Phyllostrephus sharpei* in 1880, and eight years later (*P.Z.S.* 1888, p. 24) he employed that name for four specimens of a large form of a true *Calamocichla*. Sharpe, *Hand-list*, vol. iv. p. 206, corrected this mistake to a certain extent, but erroneously identified this large *Calamocichla* with *griseldis* Hartl., which is another mistake, as *griseldis* is a true *Acrocephalus*. That such mistakes as these could be made by the three foremost living authorities on African Ornithology shows that the genus is a rather difficult one to deal with.

In working out the species a still greater difficulty is encountered than the external similarity to *Acrocephalus* and *Phyllostrephus*, it being an interesting but embarrassing fact that the female of a larger species sometimes resembles the male of the next smaller one. Further, in the West African forms the adult birds are mostly grey above and below, and the young birds are rufous or yellowish brown, while in the East African forms the differences in coloration between young and adult specimens are not so striking.

The Genus *Calamocichla* was founded by Sharpe in the *Catalogue of Birds*, vol. vii. p. 131, where he gives no description, but simply unites under this name two species, *newtoni* and *brevipennis*. The definition of the genus is, however, to be found in the *key to the Genera of Bradypтери*, pp. 93 and 94. This key fits very well *brevipennis* and all other species of *Calamocichla* from tropical Africa,

but not *Calamocichla newtoni* from Madagascar, which has the tail not about equal in length to the wing, but always much longer, the length of the tail exceeding that of the wing by about 8—12 mm., in adult specimens. The tail of *C. newtoni* is more graduated, so that the bird is intermediate in structural characters between *Calamocichla* and *Nesillas* Oberh. (= *Ellisia* Hartl.), while the streaks on the throat, being always present, give the bird a resemblance to *Bradypterus brachypterus*. I therefore think that the bird cannot be included in the genus *Calamocichla*, and accordingly create for it the genus

Hemiellisia gen. nov.

Type: *Calamoherpe newtoni* Hartl.

Characters: Similar in external character to *Calamocichla*, but the tail far more graduated, decidedly longer than the wing, though the difference in length is not so great as in *Nesillas*.

The other species remain united under the generic term *Calamocichla*, of which the type is *Calamodyta brevipennis* Keulemans.

The Genus *Calamocichla* may shortly be described as follows: Similar in all characters to *Aerocephalus*, but the first primary well developed and not rudimentary. Wing rounded, especially in *brevipennis*, more pointed in *gracilirostris*. Fourth or fifth quill longest, or both equal in length. First quill about half the length of the second, being a little shorter in *gracilirostris* and *zuluensis*.

Distribution: Tropical Africa, from Capetown to Northern Abyssinia* in the East, and to Fernando Po in the West, and Cape Verde Islands.

I do not pretend that the results arrived at in this revision are in every way satisfactory. I cannot even say whether two of the species of *Calamocichla* occur side by side in one and the same geographical province, the two species which appear to occur together in East Africa, viz. *parva* and *leptorhyncha*, being the most difficult to distinguish, as the female of the former is extremely similar to the male of the latter.

I found that the length of the hindclaw, as compared with that of the wing, is a good character by which the different species can be distinguished. I have omitted to give the length of the culmen, which is difficult to take in these birds, and is seldom measured in the same way by different ornithologists.

The length of the hindclaw is taken in a straight line from the basal ventral edge to the tip.

Calamocichla ansorgei ansorgei Hart.

Hartert, *Bull. B. O. C.* vol. xvi. (1906) p. 52.

♂. Upper-surface olive, somewhat lighter and more brownish on the rump and upper tail-coverts. Under-surface pale olive-grey, upper throat, middle of abdomen, and under tail-coverts whitish.

Wing 82; tail 82; tarsus $30\frac{1}{2}$; hindclaw 10 mm.

Hab. North Angola.

Only one specimen known, collected by Dr. W. J. Ansorge at Duque de Braganza.

* The exact locality of the only specimen of *leptorhyncha* collected by Wilke in Northern Abyssinia (Berl. Mus.) is not known. The specimen geographically nearest is the one from Lake Zwai (Brit Mus.) which is referred by me to *C. parva*.

Calamocichla ansorgei nilotica subsp. nov.*Phyllostrephus sharpi* (nec Shell), Shell, *P. Z. S.* 1888, p. 24.*Acrocephalus griseldis* (nec Hartl.), Sharpe, *Hand-list* iv. 1903, p. 206.

Similar to *C. a. ansorgei*, but everywhere more dirty brown and less grey. The lores are lighter than the sides of the head, but not pure white. (In *C. a. ansorgei* the lores are of the same colour as the head.) The wing is shorter. The bill is slightly broader and is paler. The hindclaw is longer.

Wing, ♂, 77—79; ♀, 72; tarsus 29—30; ♀, 27½; hindclaw, ♂, 11½—12; ♀, 11 mm.

Hab. Wadelai.

Four specimens, collected by Emin, August 1885 (British Museum).

I refer provisionally to this subspecies two birds which seem to be in young plumage, which have the upperside more rufous brown, and have ochraceous or rufous brown on the underside, where the Wadelai birds have grey. They were collected by the British Museum Ruwenzori expedition.

♂. Fort Beni, Semlik River. Wing 79; tarsus 32; hindclaw 12 mm.

♀. Ruwenzori. Wing 72; tarsus 29; hindclaw 11 mm.

Calamocichla rufescens Sharpe & Bouvier.*Bradypterus rufescens* Sharpe & Bouvier, *Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, 1876, p. 307 [Landana, Congo].*Calamocichla plebeja* Rehw., *Orn. Monatsber.* 1893, p. 178 [Yaunde, Kamerun].*Calamocichla poensis* Alex., *Bull. Br. Orn. C.* vol. xiv. (1903) p. 32 [Bilepili, Fernando Po]." " Sharpe, *Ibis* 1908, p. 318 [River Ja (Ascha), Kamerun].

The adult bird (*poensis* dress) similar to *C. ansorgei*, but paler above and below and with shorter wing and hindclaw. The younger bird (*plebeja* dress) has the upperside more rufous brown, especially the rump and the sides of body, flanks, and thighs, which are grey in the adult, are yellowish fawn.

In the type of *rufescens*, which might be a still younger stage, the upperside, especially the edges of wing and tail, are still more rufous and the dark parts of the underside ochraceous.

The adult Fernando Po birds are slightly paler than the adult Kamerun birds and have the bills slightly shorter (for about one-half to one millimetre).

But as the length of wing, tarsus, and hindclaw is about the same in the three forms, I think it better to unite the birds from Landana, South Kamerun, and Fernando Po under the same name. The narrow light apical edge on the tail-feathers of the type of *poensis*, which Reichenow (*Vögel Afrikas*, vol. iii. p. 574) makes a distinguishing character between *plebeja* and *poensis*, is of course only a sign of a very fresh plumage.

| | | MEASUREMENTS. | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|
| ♀ | juv. (type of <i>rufescens</i>) | Landana (Petit). Br. Mus. | 72 | 70 | 29 | 9 mm. |
| * | ♀ juv. (type of <i>plebeja</i>) | Yaunde (Zenker). Berl. Mus. | 73 | 75(?) | 30 | ? " |
| ♂ | (sexed ♀) | (type of <i>poensis</i>) | Fernando Po (Alexander). | | | |
| | Priv. Mus. | | 76 | 75 | 29 | 8½ " |
| ♂ | Fernando Po (Seimund). | Br. Mus. | 75 | 73 | 29 | 9 " |
| ♂ | River Ja (Bates). | Br. Mus. | 75 | 74 | 29 | 9½ " |
| ♂ | " " " " " " | " " " " " " | 74 | 69 | 29½ | 9 " |
| ♂ | juv., River Ja (Bates). | Br. Mus. | 72 | 67 | 29 | 9 " |
| ♂ | juv., " " " " " " | " " " " " " | 73 | 72 | 30 | 9 " |
| ♀ | " " " " " " | " " " " " " | 71 | 70 | 28 | 9 " |

* Measurements taken from the original description.

Calamocichla jacksoni Nenn.

Calamocichla jacksoni Nenn., *Orn. Monatsber.* 1901. p. 185 [Ntebbi].

In 1901 I described a specimen from Ntebbi under this name as follows : "Similar to *C. leptorhyncha*, but somewhat smaller, with the bill more slender. Colour of the upperside much lighter, pale yellowish brown, not earthy brown, very light on lower back and rump. Underside greyish white, suffused with yellow."

I believed at that time that the species was somewhat smaller than *leptorhyncha*, but having now had an occasion of examining a large series of *Calamocichla*, collected by F. Jackson at Ntebbi in different years, I came to the conclusion that the bird described as *jacksoni* is a very young bird of a species which is not smaller than *leptorhyncha* but larger, approaching in size *C. parva*, being distinguished from this species by its more greyish brown and less fulvous brown upperside and by its greyish underside. I arrived at that conclusion as no adult specimen of the smaller size was ever got at Ntebbi, at which place all these grey birds were collected. All the specimens, of which the measurements are given below, were obtained at Ntebbi, the three marked with an * being in the British Museum, the others in Mr. Jackson's private collection.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | | | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|-------|--------|---------|-----------|
| * Type (juv.), Jackson coll., | 7. iii. 95 | . | 64 | 62 | 24½ | 7 mm. |
| * ♀ (sexed ♂), " " | 6. x. 01 | . | 67 | 52 (!) | 25 | 8½ " |
| * ♀, Cunningham coll. | . | . | 68 | 67 | 25½ | 8 " |
| ♀, Jackson coll., | 7. iii. 95 | . | 67 | 62 | 25 | 7 " |
| ♂ (sexed ♀), Jackson coll., | 7. iii. 95 | . | 72 | 69 | 25 | 7½ " |
| ♂, Jackson coll., | 7. iii. 95 | . | 70 | 69 | 25½ | 8 " |
| ♂ (sexed ♀), Jackson coll., | 24. iii. 01 | . | 72 | 66 | 26 | 8 " |
| ♀ (sexed ♂), " " | 17. iii. 01 | . | 67 | 64 | 25½ | 7½ " |
| ♂, Jackson coll., | 15. iv. 01 | . | 71 | 70 | 27 | 7½ " |
| ♀, " " | 15. iv. 01 | . | 66 | 60 | 25½ | 7 " |
| ♂ (?) (sexed ♂), Jackson coll., | 6. x. 01 | . | 69 | 62 | 26 | 7 " |

Calamocichla parva (Fschr. & Rehw.).

Phyllostrephus parvus Fschr. & Rehw. *J. f. O.* 1884. p. 262 [Lake Niawascha].

Calamonastes leptorhynchus (nec Rehw.) Sharpe, *Ibis* 1892. p. 154 [Lake Niawascha].

Calamocichla leptorhyncha (nec Rehw.) Nenn. *J. f. O.* 1900. p. 302 [Umbugwe].

Luscinola gracilirostris (nec Hartl.) Grant & Reid, *Ibis* 1900. p. 646 [Lake Zuai].

" " " " (partim) Alexander, *Ibis* 1900. p. 81 [Zambesi].

Upperside fulvous brown. Underside tawny buff or brownish grey, but not so grey as in *jacksoni*. Throat and middle of abdomen white. Lores of the same colour as the head, or slightly paler. It is extremely difficult to distinguish between the females of *parva* and the males of *leptorhyncha*, both being about equal in size. It seems to me that both species occur in East Africa side by side, from Lake Zuai in Southern Ethiopia to the Zambesi, though in German and British East Africa *C. parva* occurs in the higher elevated regions, while *C. leptorhyncha* is mostly found in the lowlands, and is the only one which occurs in the coast regions of the Indian Ocean. The specimen from Lake Zuai has a smaller and slenderer bill, and a slightly smaller hindclaw,

I have not been able to measure the type myself, and have some doubt whether the tail is measured by my method.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------|-------|---------|------------|
| * Type ♂, Lake Naiwascha. (Fischer) | Berlin | 75 | 78 | 27 | over 8 mm. |
| ♀, ,, (Jackson) | Priv. Mus. | 69 | 69 | 25 | 9½ ,, |
| ♂, Nairobi. (Jackson) | Priv. Mus. | 74 | 70 | 27 | 10 ,, |
| ♀, Umbugwe. (Neuman) | Berlin | 69 | 70 | 26 | 8½ ,, |
| ♂, Lake Zuai. (Pease) | Br. Mus. | 72 | 72 | 26 | 8 ,, |
| ♀, Zambesi (29. x. 98). (Alexander) | Priv. Mus. | 68 | 67 | 26 | 8½ ,, |

Calamocichla leptorhyncha (Rehw.).

Turdirostris leptorhyncha Rehw. O. C. 1879. p. 155 [Tschara, Tana River].

Luscinola gracilirostris (nec Hartl.) Alexander, *Ibis* 1900. p. 81 [Zambesi, partim].

Acrocephalus gracilirostris (nec Hartl.) Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* 1898. p. 70 [Upper Shire].

Eurypytila babaeacula (nec Vieill.) Shell. *Ibis* 1897. p. 537 [Karonga, N. Nyassa].

Upperside brown, upper tail-coverts brighter (rufous buff). Underside almost white, flanks and belly very pale buff.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw |
|---|------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| * ♂ (type), Tschara (Fischer). | Berlin | 60 | 60 | | mm. |
| ♂, Zanzibar (Fischer). | Hamburg | 63 | 60 | 25 | 8 |
| ♀, Zambesi (Alexander). | Priv. Mus. | 57 | 57 | 24 | 8½ ,, |
| ♂ (lab. ♀), Zambesi (Alexander). | Priv. Mus. | 62½ | 57 | 25 | 8½ ,, |
| ♂, Upper Shiré (Rendall). | Tring | 62½ | 59 | 24½ | 8 ,, |
| ♂, Lake Stephanie (Donaldson Smith). | Tring | 64 | 59 | 27 | 8 ,, |
| ♂, Tertale Mountains (Donaldson Smith). | Tring | 63 | 69 | 27 | 8 ,, |
| ♂, Senna, Zambesi (Alex.). | Br. Mus. | 64 | 60 | 27 | 8½ ,, |
| ♂, Karongo, N. Nyassa (Wyte). | Br. Mus. | 65 worn, | over 60 | 26½ | 9 ,, |
| ♂, Kagehi (Fischer). | Berlin | 66 worn, | over 60 | 25½ | 8½ ,, |
| Karema (Böhm). | Berlin | 65 | 59 | 25 | 8½ ,, |
| ♀, Zanzibar (Stuhlmann). | Berlin | 61½ | 59 | 26 | 8 ,, |
| ♀, Bukoba, Nyanza (Emin). | Berlin | 61 | 61 | 26 | 8 ,, |

The species appears to be distributed from North Abyssinia, from where there is a specimen collected by Wilke in the Berlin Museum, to the Zambesi. There are, however, slight differences in the coloration.

The type, and specimens from the Zambesi, have some white on the lores, which is almost entirely absent in the specimens from Karema, Kagehi, Bukoba, and North-East Africa. But as also some individual variation occurs in this character, no exact line can be drawn.

In none of the specimens is the white of the lores so distinct as in *Calamocichla cunensis*, *gracilirostris* and *zuluensis*.

Calamocichla zuluensis Neum.

Acrocephalus baeticatus (nec Vieill.) Sharpe, *Ibis* 1897. p. 505.

Calamocichla zuluensis Neum., *Bull. Br. Orn. Cl.* vol. xx. (1908). p. 96.

I know two specimens of this species, one of which is that collected by the Brothers Woodward at Etchowe, Zululand, and recorded by Sharpe as

* Measurements of type taken from the original description.

Acrocephalus baeticatus. The second was collected by C. H. B. Grant in Inhambane, Mozambique. Without examination of the wing *Acrocephalus baeticatus* and *Calamocichla zuluensis* resemble each other far more than *Phyllostrephus strepitans* and *Calamocichla parva*. The coloration and size of the bill are absolutely the same in both species.

This new form is intermediate between *C. leptorhyncha* and *C. gracilirostris*. It has the small size of the former, but the coloration of the latter. The lores are pure white, and the white is continued above the eye as in *gracilirostris* and *cuneneensis*, not slaty whitish as in *leptorhyncha*. The first primary is shorter than in *leptorhyncha* and narrowed in its terminal half. It is a little less than half of the second.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|--|-------|-------|---------|-----------|
| ♂, Inhambane, Mozambique (C. H. B. Grant). Br. Mus. . | 67 | 61 | 26 | 8 mm. |
| ♀ (Type), Etchowe, Zululand (Brothers Woodward). Triug | 63 | 59 | 26 | 7 ,, |

This bird is distributed from South Mozambique to Zululand, and probably to Natal, east of the Drakensberg Mountains, where it may replace *C. gracilirostris*. I have seen many specimens of true *gracilirostris* from Newcastle, west of the Drakensberg Range, but none from the coast regions of Natal.

Calamocichla gracilirostris Hartl.

Calamohorpe gracilirostris Hartl., *Ibis* 1864. p. 348 [Natal].

Above russet or fulvous brown, brighter on the rump, upper tail-coverts, and edges of wings, below nearly white, slightly washed with yellowish buff on the flanks. Lores and eye-streak white.

But for the pure white lores and eye-streak this species resembles very much lighter specimens of *C. leptorhyncha* and the rufous dress of *C. brevipennis*, but *gracilirostris* and *zuluensis* are distinguished from all other species of *Calamocichla* by the shape of the first primary, which is narrowed in its terminal part, and somewhat pointed. It is somewhat less in length than half the second.

The bill is not quite so broad as in most of the other species.

This species never gets a grey dress, such as all the West African forms of *Calamocichla*, as well as *jacksoni*, acquire at a certain season.

It is of far less wide distribution than is stated by Seebohm, *Cat. Birds*, vol. vii. p. 122, Reichenow, *Vögel Africas*, iii. p. 583, W. L. Sclater, *Stark's Birds of South Africa*, vol. ii. p. 102, all these authors having accepted as correct the statements by various authors who recorded other species of *Calamocichla* under this name.

It is distributed over South Africa from Capetown northwards to Omambonde, near Otavi, in the west, and to South Transvaal and Western Natal in the east, that means high up the Orange River system. But it does not appear to occur in the lower Limpopo River,* nor in the coast region of Natal, east of the Drakensberg Range, from where I have not seen a single specimen, and where it may be replaced by the similar but much smaller *C. zuluensis*.

As, however, I only know two specimens of *C. zuluensis*, the task to clear up this question must be left to our friends of the South African Ornithologists' Union.

* From the whole Limpopo system I have seen only one small specimen from the Matlabas River.

I am well aware that *Calamoherpe gracilirostris* has been described from Natal, but no exact locality is given, and the measurements point to the larger bird, wing $3.92 = 76$ mm., which, indeed, occurs still plentifully at Newcastle. It is impossible to employ for this bird the name of *Sylvia babaccula* Vieill., founded on "La Caquetense" of Levaillant, which has dirty black patches on the chest and breast, and very probably is the *Bradypterus*, later called *barratti* by Sharpe, as Reichenow, *Vögel Afrikas*, iii. p. 580, has correctly pointed out.

I have examined no less than thirty-eight specimens of this species, all of which, with the exception of three specimens in Tring, are in the British Museum.

Seventeen specimens from Potchefstroom and six specimens from Newcastle have the following measurements:

2 ♂♂, wing $75\frac{1}{2}$ —78 (80 in two cases), tail 67—73 (75 in two cases), tarsus 27—29, hindclaw $8-8\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 2 ♀♀, wing 72—74, tail 67—73, tarsus 27—29, hindclaw $8-8\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Two specimens from Capetown have the wing 72—76, tail 70—75, tarsus $26\frac{1}{2}$ —28, hindclaw $8-8\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Two specimens from the Berg River (Cape Colony): wing 71—72, tail (worn) 66—68, tarsus 28, hindclaw $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Two specimens from Omambonde, near Otavi, German South West Africa: wing, ♂ 72, ♀ 68, tail 67, 69, tarsus 27, hindclaw $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Four specimens from Sir W. Jardine's collection without exact locality: wing 69, $69\frac{1}{2}$, $70\frac{1}{2}$, 75, tail 65, 67, 70, 71, tarsus 27, 28, hindclaw $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The only specimen from the Limpopo System belongs to the Tring Museum. ♀ Matlabas River (Ericksson coll.): wing 71, tail 66, tarsus $26\frac{1}{2}$, hindclaw 8.

Three specimens from Sir Andrew Smith's collection: wing 70, 72, 76, tail 62, 64, 72, tarsus 27, 28, hindclaw 8, broken in the red specimen, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in the others.

I cannot say, of course, whence the birds out of the Jardine collection came, nor where Sir Andrew Smith collected his specimens, but they seem to belong to a slightly smaller form than the specimens from Potchefstroom and Newcastle.

As to the coloration, the two Omambonde specimens are slightly paler on the underside than most of the others, while two of Sir Andrew Smith's specimens, as well as some of Sir William Jardine's birds, are very dark rufous.

Calamocichla cunenensis Hart.

Calamocichla cunenensis Hart., *B. B. O. C.* vol. xiii. (1903). p. 62.

In this species the whole lores are white, and this colour is extended to above the eyes. It differs from *L. gracilirostris*, which it resembles in that respect, in having the upper side more grey and less fulvous or russet-brown, and in the underside being practically white and crop and sides of the body slightly washed with grey. A second specimen from Benguella has the upperside a little more fulvous than the type, but still less so than *gracilirostris*, the sides of body, belly, and under tail-coverts being slightly washed with very pale buff. In both specimens the first primary is as broad as in the northern species of *Calamocichla*. Distribution from the Cunene to Benguella.

| | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|---|-------|-------|---------|-----------|
| Type, Cunene, 3. iv. 80 (Ericksson coll.) | 75 | 75 | 26 | 7 mm. |
| Begnella, ii. 01 (Mocquery coll.) | 72 | 68 | 28 | 7 ,, |

Both specimens belong to the Tring Museum. Neither of them is sexed. It is possible that the second belongs to another form than the type, considering that its wings are smaller, while the tarsus is 2 mm. longer.

Calamocichla brevipennis Keulemans.

Calamodytu brevipennis Keulemans, *Nederl. Tijdsch. dierk.*, vol. iii. (1866), p. 368 [San Nicolau, Cap Verdes].

Calamoherpe brevipennis Dohrn, *Journ. f. Orn.* 1871, p. 4 [San Nicolau and Santiago].

Calamocichla brevipennis Alexander, *Ibis* 1898, p. 82, 91, 103, 115, 280, 290 [San Nicolau, Brava, Sautiago].

A fine series of ten specimens of this species is before me. There is one co-type of Dohrn's in the British Museum and ten specimens collected by Capt. Boyd Alexander, six of which are out of his private collection, two from the British and two from the Tring Museum.

Some of the specimens resemble the bird described by Sharpe in the *Catalogue of Birds*, vol. vii. p. 132. In this plumage the upperside is russet-brown, more rufous on rump, upper tail-coverts, and edges of wings. The chin, throat, and middle of belly are white, the remainder of the underside is more or less suffused with yellowish buff. In this dress, which seems to be that of the young bird, the species strongly resembles *C. leptorhyncha*.

Some of the birds are ashy grey above, with only a slight indication of fulvous on the rump, edges of wing and tail. The parts of the underside which in the young stage are yellowish buff are pale brownish grey. Some birds are intermediate between these stages.

All these birds are collected in February and April. Two birds obtained during the breeding season in November are very much worn. They are nearly pure ashy grey above and almost white below, only the sides of the body being slightly washed with grey.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|---|------------|-------|---------|-----------|
| Cotype, fulvous dress, Dohrn, Brit. Mus., San Nicolau | 63 over 60 | 60 | 26 | 7 mm. |
| ♂ iv. " " Alexander, Priv. Coll., San Nicolau | 62 | 56 | 26 | 6 " |
| ♂ iv. " " " " " " " " | 65 | 62 | 27 | 6½ " |
| ♂ iv. " " " " " " " " | 63 | 61 | 27 | 6½ " |
| ♂ iv. grey " " " " " " " " | 64 | 60 | 27 | 6½ " |
| ♂ ii. " " " " " San Jago | 61½ | 58 | 27 | 6½ " |
| ♀ iii. fulvous " " " " " " " | 64 | 61 | 27½ | 7 " |
| ♂ iii. grey " " " " " " " | 66 | 65 | 26 | 6½ " |
| ♂ ii. " " " " " " " " | 67 | 64 | 26½ | 7 " |
| ♂ 5. xi. " " " Tring Mus., San Nicolau | 65 | 59 | 28 | 6½ " |
| ♀ (?) 13. xi. grey " " " " " " " | 67 (!) | 64 | 27 | 6½ " |

If the sections are correct, which I much doubt, there is no difference in size between the two sexes in this species. I believe the specimens with a wing of 65—67 mm. to be males, the others to be females.

LIST OF THE SPECIMENS OF *CALAMOCICHLA* IN THE TRING MUSEUM.***Calamocichla ansorgei* Hart.**

Type : ♂. Duque de Braganza, North Angola. 2. viii. 03. W. J. Ansorge.

***Calamocichla leptorhyncha* Rehw.**

♂. Tertale Mountain, near Lake Stephanie . . . 25. v. 95. Donaldson Smith.
 ♂. Lake Stephanie 31. v. 95. " "
 ♂. Upper Shiré 2. iii. 96. Percy Rendall.

***Calamocichla brevipennis* Kenlemans.**

♂. San Nicolau, Cape Verde Islands . . . 5. xi. 97. Boyd Alexander.
 ♂ " " " " " . . . 13. xi. 97. " "

***Calamocichla cunenensis* Hart.**

Type : Cnuene River, Mossamedes . . . 3. iv. 80. A. W. Eriksson.
 Bengnella ii. 01. Mocquerys.

***Calamocichla zuluensis* Neum.**

Type ♀, Etehowe, Zululand 94. R.B. and T.D.S. Woodward

***Calamocichla gracilirostris* Hartl.**

♂. Newcastle, Natal 18. ix. 81. Colonel Giffard.
 ♀. " " 20. ix. 81. " "
 ♀. Matlabas River, Transvaal 7. x. 86. A. W. Eriksson.

In the foregoing review I had overlooked, by mistake, the following species :

Calamocichla chadensis* Alex.Calamocichla chadensis*, Alex. *Bull. Br. Orn. Cl.* vol. xix. (1907) p. 63 [Lake Chad].

This species resembles *C. brevipennis* in every respect, but is at once distinguished by its larger size. From adult (grey) specimens of *C. rufescens*, to which it is about equal in size, it seems to differ by its very pale coloration, but unfortunately the five specimens available for comparison are in much worn condition. They are all in Captain Boyd Alexander's private collection.

Hab. Lake Chad Region.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Hindclaw. |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------|------------|---------|-----------|
| ♂ | Wuunda 19 v. . . | 77 | 73 | 30 | 9 mm. |
| ♂ (sexed ♀) | " 18 v. . . | 76 | 69 | 28 | 8 " |
| ♀ | Machillela . . . 21 v. . . | 71 | 67 | 29 | 9 " |
| ♀ | Karraraga . . . 16 iii. (?) . . | 70½ | 67 | 28 | 8½ " |
| ♂ | " . . . 17 v. . . | 77 | incomplete | 29 | 8½ " |